THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Available information relating to rape cases for the year 1996 is given below:

Cases in which trial was completed	Cases which resulted in conviction	Cases which resulted in acquittal
8,436	6,088	2,348

Similar information for the subsequent period is not yet available. Information relating to acquittals in gang rape is not maintained separately.

(b) Some instances of Non-Governmental Organisations protesting against acquittal of accused persons in some cases have come to notice.

(c) Even as changes in the relevant laws have been made from time to time, the Centra] Government is presently interacting with the State Governments on the issue of providing death penalty to rapists. The Central Government has also been advising the States to take appropriate measures to check crimes against women. These include, inter alia, strengthening of the criminal justice system for speedy disposal of cases, strengthening of enforcement machinery and socio-economic measures for empowerment of women.

Ban on Bandhs

363. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI CO. POULOSE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the ban imposed by the Supreme Court on bandhs;

(b) the total number of bandhs organised in the country after the imposition of such a ban;

(c) whether Government agree with the conclusion that the ban on bandhs is impractical; and

(d) whether the present Solicitor General who argued in the Supreme Court in support of the bandh has been approached by Government for advice in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir, Government is aware of the judgement delivered by the Supreme Court in this regard.

(b) As per information available, 250 bandhs were organised in the country, at the State, District and local levels, since the judgement of the Supreme Court.

(c) Under the Constitution, 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects, and as such it is for the State Government to take a view in the matter.

(d) The Government has not approached the Solicitor General in this regard.

Bringing back Militants into National Mainstream

364. SHRI AKHILESH DAS:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been divulged by Kashmiri Militants who have surrendered, both Kashmiris and foreigners, that militants by and large are totally disenchanted with militancy;

(b) if so, whether in view of such disenchantment, Government propose to take any steps to bring back the Indian militants and the misguided youth, who have taken to militancy to the national mainstream; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Some surrendered militants have stated that they are disenchanted with militancy.